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NAPHTHALENE PRODUCTION INCREASES

WARSAW GASWORKS PRODUCES NAPHTHALENE -- Rzeczpospolita, No 136, 21 May 49

Production of sublimated naphthalene is very important to the Polish economy. Naphthalene is not only a household item but is important in the production of synthetics and is in great demand for the dyestuffs industry.

In the early postwar years, the naphthalene production of the chemical plant in Hajduki in Gorny Slask entirely satisfied the demand. As our synthetic industry developed and as interest in Polish naphthalene was evidenced abroad, production of the Hajduki plant could not satisfy the demand. To alleviate the situation, the chemical plant of the Warsaw Gasworks started the production of sublimated naphthalene.

Before the war, the Warsaw plant was not equipped with naphthalene presses and could only reprocess the compressed naphthalene purchased in Slask.

After the war, despite many difficulties and slow deliveries of materials, the workers in the Warsaw plant, with the help of a small crew of fitters without sketches or specifications, assembled the presses and the equipment for distilling naphthalene. In March 1948 this plant began compressing naphthalene, and in April of this year production of sublimate naphthalene in flake form was started. This plant was also responsible for solving the raw materials problem, using waste resin oil and crude gasworks tar.

The innovation of utilizing waste resin oil was suggested by the manager and the engineer of the plant. The process consists of distilling the resin oil and crystallizing crude naphthalene out of the naphthalene fractions.

Obtaining naphthalene from crude gasworks tar is an achievement of equal value.

Naphthalene is usually obtained from coke-oven tar which has a naphthalene content of about 8 percent, whereas gasworks tar has a content of not more than 4 percent. With the careful collection of all oil fractions of gasworks tar which are known to have a large naphthalene content, the chemical plant can obtain crude naphthalene by redistillation and successive crystallization.

- 1 -

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The profit thus obtained can be seen from the fact that the Chemical Plant sells one kilogram of naphthalene contained in commercial oils for 12 zlotys, whereas the price of one kilogram of naphthalene in flake form is about 50 zlotys.

At present, the chemical plant of the Warsaw Gasworks produces on the average of 15,000 kilograms of sublimated naphthalene monthly, which is a good portion of the domestic production of commercial naphthalene.

SALT SPRING YIELDS IODINE, BROMINE -- Rzeczpospolita, No 149, 1 Jun 49

While drilling for natural gas in Debowice, Cieszyn Powiat, Gorny Slask Wojewodztwo, a salt spring containing iodine and bromine was discovered. The spring will be exploited intensively in the near future for its valuable supply of iodine and bromine.

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